



Stewardship Check List: Things You Can Do to Care for Your Property and the Wildlife That Lives There

1. Learn about your land: identify its natural features and the species that live there over the year.
2. Preserve existing native trees, shrubs and standing dead trees where possible. Let natural debris (fallen trees and leaves) decompose in woodland areas. This creates habitat, retains moisture and improves the soil.
3. Minimize the number of trees and shrubs removed for view and construction. Prune tree limbs rather than removing entire trees.
4. Create a deer and rabbit exclusion zone and landscape with native plants to reduce the need for watering.
5. Control invasive plants such as Scotch broom, gorse, English ivy, spurge laurel and garden escapees such as holly, spurge laurel, blind nettle (*Lamium*) and periwinkle. Avoid planting invasive species.
6. Avoid the use of synthetic fertilizers and any type of pesticide. Use non-toxic, biodegradable cleaning and grooming products.
7. Protect and restore vegetation along streams, lakes and ocean to prevent excessive runoff from washing nutrients into water bodies where they pollute the water.
8. Conserve water by collecting and storing rainwater, practice efficient irrigation and minimize the use of impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete.
9. Add bird and bat boxes, bird baths, ponds for amphibians, decaying logs for small mammal and salamander habitat, and brush or rock piles for reptiles.
10. Keep your cat indoors. A single free roaming domestic cat can kill hundreds of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and other insects each year.

Prepared by the Stewardship Committee of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.